

# AHS Integration Efforts Autism Planning for the Future

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 26, 2021

10:30 – 12:00

**Location:** zoom

**Overall Goal of our work group:** How do we use our collective resources to move autism services forward for children and their families in Vermont?

**Present:** Philip Eller, Molly Bumpas, Cheryle Wilcox, Liliane Savard, Danielle Brier, Mary Graham McDowell, Valerie Wood, Jamie Rainville, Lana Metayer, Danielle Howes, Beth Forbes, Melanie Hall, Lyn Ujlaky, Jenn Johnson, Melissa Houser, Hillary Hill, Cammie Naylor

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
<b>Updates</b>	<p>Philip Eller-Autism Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed Blue Pumpkin initiative. Perspectives included potential risks in singling out children – may be more helpful to think of general inclusiveness.</li> </ul> <p>Danielle Brier, Medicaid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Things continue to move forward in ABA services, trying to make it easier for families and providers to provide these supports. Still working through ABA reconciliations from 2020 with providers.</li> </ul> <p>Molly Bumpas, UVMMC/UVM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waitlist at Autism Assessment Clinic is up to 113 children. Currently 9-12 months wait. Danielle Howes added that tailored early intervention can still begin with suspected ASD, even if child is waiting for diagnosis. Cammie Naylor reminds us that schools cannot delay eligibility determination based on a child being on a wait list for independent evaluation. PCPs need to feel empowered to make diagnosis (Mel Houser, MD). Some families have trust issues with schools and do not wish to have an ASD diagnostic determined from school evaluation (prefer independent evaluator).</li> </ul> <p>Beth Forbes, MD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently Developmental Assessment team discussing how to manage growing wait lists and how to streamline intake criteria.</li> <li>• Vermont has a history of limiting who can make an ASD diagnosis to qualify for services.</li> <li>• The medical center is discussing how to help increase capacity for evaluations: community-based first tier evals, partnering with medical homes, etc. How do we extend the reach of the UVMMC specialty center to Vermont?</li> </ul>

	<p>Danielle Howes, CIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding has been approved to offer training in Early Start Denver Model for early intervention providers in Vermont. ESDM is a naturalistic behavioral developmental intervention and evidence-based practice.</li> </ul> <p>Other: Respite funding rates have increased to \$17, PCA remains 13.74 and can be flexed up to \$15 per hour. Request for variance can be made.</p>
<p><b>Work on strategic plan goals in two groups</b></p>	<p>Group B: See updated strategic plan for notes.</p> <p>Group A: Family-Centered Care Members: Molly Bumpas, Lana Metayer, , Phillip Eller, Melissa Houser, Melanie Hall, Lyn Ujlaky, Melanie Hall, Liliane Savard, Kelsey Naro</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Young Adult Transition:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Autism Research Collaborative at UVM (ARC) led by Liliane Savard is applying for grant to gather information from families, autistic adults/youth re: their experiences with health care transition. This information would help inform potential training for families, autistic adults/youths, and professionals about how to make this process better. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What training do PCPs receive re: ASD?</li> </ul> </li> <li>There is also dearth of training in ASD in Vocational rehab – one training per year, and turnover of staff is high. The educational and human services settings are silo-ed. Vocational rehab are not collecting the appropriate data to determine if clients are successful.</li> <li>Idea: if trainings could be required for all new hires receiving certain state or federal funding</li> <li>CORE Team Interagency meetings: brings together VDH, AOE, DOL, DAS, Voc Rehab. Could this be a place to connect?</li> <li>Idea: a focus group of autism teenagers going through transition planning</li> <li>Jenny Masterson has been identified by Diane Bugbee as a resource for this group to determine what’s available currently and processes already in place in Vermont. <i>Molly will reach out to Diane about this.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>School Age:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do we need to gather data re: school services received, as well as family feedback on ACT 264 process?</li> <li>Discussed difficulty of obtaining information re: how children are doing in school as they get older.</li> <li>How do families’ access the educational standards?</li> <li>What current trainings do VFN offer as far as IEP process, educational standards, etc.?</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Young Children:</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Danielle Howes is leading a group at state level to increase use of training to EI providers in ASD. Currently there is no regular training and has not been for several years.</li></ul>
<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>	<p><b>Next meeting: <span style="color: red;">Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 2:30</span></b></p> 

